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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, FEBRUARY 1994**MAIN FEATURES**

In the February edition of *ACT Business Indicators*, increases have been noted in the following series:

- Secured commitments for the purchase of new dwellings for the ACT in December showed an increase of 4.8 per cent from the month before, and an annual rise of 42.3 per cent to \$17.5 million.
- The number of industrial disputes per thousand employees in December for the ACT has risen to 76.0. This compares with last year's figure of 20.0 disputes per thousand employees.
- The ACT's trend series number of unemployed in January increased by 9.3 per cent from the same period last year.
- The January 1994 labour force original series, the number of unemployed persons for the ACT has risen from the previous month by 23.2 per cent to 15 400.
- In the January labour force original series, the ACT unemployment rate has risen by 23.9 percentage points from the previous month, and 12.8 percentage points from the year before.
- For December 1993, the price index of house building materials increased from the same period last year by 5.7 per cent, and from the previous month by 0.1 per cent, to 150.4.

Some indicators in this February issue have shown a decrease from the previous period or from the year before. Such series include:

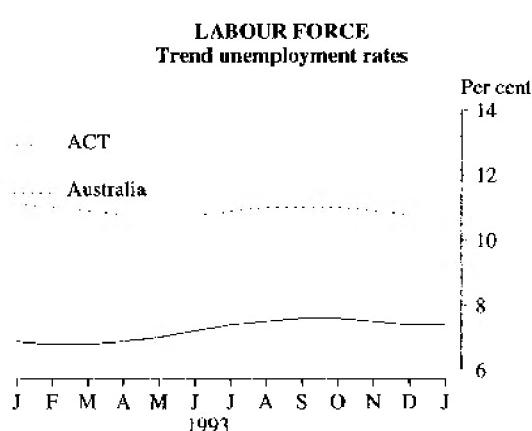
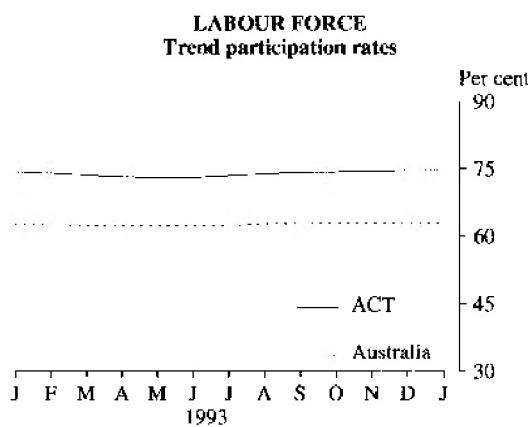
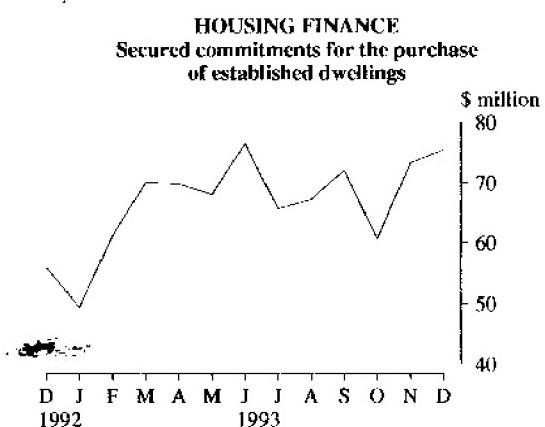
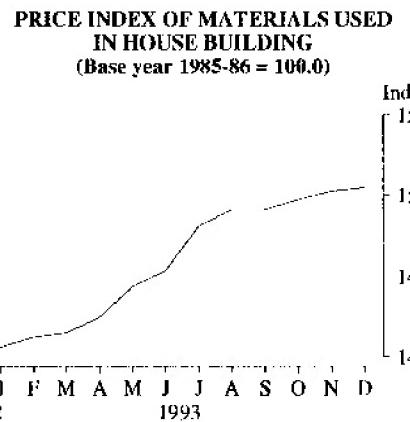
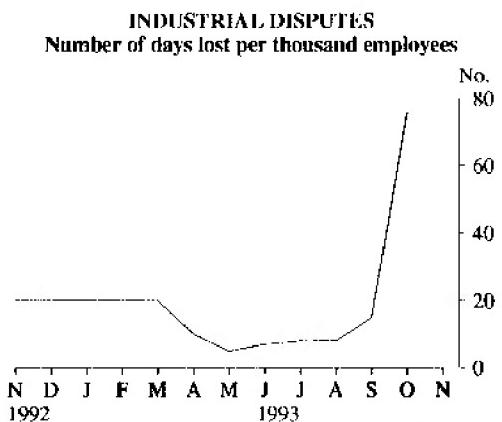
- December's secured commitments for the construction of dwellings for the ACT declined by 5 per cent from the November figure.
- The number of working days lost in November showed a decline from the previous month for ACT and for Australia, decreasing by 100 per cent for the ACT, and 49.6 per cent for the Australian figure.
- For the ACT, the trend series number of unemployed in January decreased by 0.8 percentage points from the December figure.
- In the January original labour force series, the participation rate for the ACT dropped by 1.2 percentage points from the previous month. It also fell from the previous year's figure by 0.4 percentage points.
- For both original and trend series hotels, liquor stores and licenced clubs in the ACT, the December figures showed a decrease from the previous month. For the original series, the decrease was 3.9 per cent to \$12.4 million, and the trend series decreased by 3.4 percent to \$11.5 million.

DALMA JACOBS
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Nicole Lowrey on Canberra (06) 207 0325 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,
MARCH QUARTER 1994/DECEMBER QUARTER 1994
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE**

Period	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Short-term		
December 1993	1.0	3.6
March 1994	-0.4	-1.4
Medium-term		
September 1994	1.5	2.9
December 1994	2.8	3.1

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, FEBRUARY 1994

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia	
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)
			(%)	(%)		(%)
Average weekly earnings, August 93						
Original series						
Males	\$	699.80	-0.7	1.7	618.10	0.9
Females	\$	472.30	-2.2	7.7	409.60	0.8
Total persons	\$	570.60	-1.5	3.7	520.60	0.6
Trend series						
Males	\$	673.90	0.5	2.2	622.30	1.3
Females	\$	483.10	1.4	7.9	413.20	1.2
Total persons	\$	578.70	1.0	4.4	525.80	1.3
Building approvals, December 93						
Dwelling units	no.	265	12.8	12.8	13 693	-15.3
Value of new residential	\$m	23.8	3.0	-2.5	1 144.7	-14.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	2.7	-57.8	—	168.1	-15.2
Value of non-residential	\$m	17.1	317.1	256.3	767.4	14.1
Value of total building	\$m	43.6	30.1	36.3	2 080.2	-5.8
Building commencements, September quarter 93						
New houses	no.	606	5.2	-14.3	32 525	6.5
Value of houses commenced	\$m	65.4	2.0	-8.4	2 915.6	7.4
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	63.3	-2.6	42.9	1 823.9	-5.2
Hotels, motels and guest house accommodation, September quarter 93						
Room occupancy rate(a)	%	62.2	7.2	13.9	54.5	7.3
Bed occupancy rate(a)	%	35.3	6.0	7.3	33.5	9.1
Takings from accommodation	\$'000	16 621	4.6	16.0	672 163	9.8
Housing finance, December 93						
Secured commitments to individuals for construction of dwellings	\$m	11.4	-5.0	25.3	696.9	1.8
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	17.5	4.8	42.3	189.3	-0.3
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	75.4	3.0	34.4	3 095.1	4.1
Total new housing commitments	\$m	104.3	2.3	34.8	3 981.3	3.4
Industrial disputes in progress, November 93						
Working days lost	'000	—	-100.0	-100.0	40.1	-49.6
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended September 93)	no.	76.0	—	280.0	112	-45.9
Labour force, January 94p						
Job vacancies (August 93)	'000	0.4	33.3	-20.0	29.6	-3.0
Original series						
Employed	'000	159.1	-2.9	1.3	7 738.9	-2.5
Unemployed	'000	15.4	23.2	15.8	988	3.9
Unemployment rate(a)	%	8.8	23.9	12.8	11.3	5.6
Participation rate(a)	%	74.2	-1.2	-0.4	62.5	-1.9
Trend series						
Employed	'000	162.7	0.4	2.6	7 867.8	0.3
Unemployed	'000	12.9	-0.8	9.3	949	-0.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.4	—	7.2	10.8	—
Participation rate(a)	%	74.6	—	0.3	63.2	0.2
New motor vehicle registrations, December 93p						
Motor vehicles (original)	no.	955	-5.9	1.9	48 541	-3.1
Motor vehicles (trend)	no.	943	-2.0	6.7	46 158	0.2
Population, June quarter 93						
Natural increase	'000	298.9	0.2	1.6	17 661.5	0.2
Net migration	no.	855	-9.9	29.0	35 348	-7.3
Total increase	no.	-299	-116.0	-167.5	-934	-104.6
	no.	556	-80.2	-49.7	34 414	-47.1

*For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, FEBRUARY 1994 - *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
			(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)
Prices, December quarter 93							
Consumer Price Index, All groups	(1989-90=100.0)	111.3	0.3	2.1	110.0	0.2	1.9
Established house price index	(1989-90=100.0)	133.4	-0.3	0.4	107.4	0.1	2.7
Price index of house building materials	(1985-86=100.0)	150.4	0.1	5.7	151.9	0.2	5.4
Retail turnover, December 93							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	60.5	14.6	11.6	2 914	17.5	7.6
Department and general stores	\$m	43.4	80.8	3.3	1 693.3	76.3	3.6
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	12.4	-3.9	-5.3	1 310	24.3	10.5
All other stores	\$m	116.2	43.3	14.5	5 430.5	31.1	6.5
<i>Total</i>	\$m	232.5	36.1	10.3	11 347.8	31.4	6.8
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	52.9	1.0	8.2	2 502.3	0.2	4.9
Department and general stores	\$m	22.5	—	—	873.2	—	-0.7
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	11.5	-3.4	0.9	1 029.4	0.4	9.5
All other stores	\$m	82.8	2.2	8.4	3 981.9	0.9	4.5
<i>Total</i>	\$m	169.7	1.1	6.6	8 386.8	0.5	4.6
State accounts, September quarter 93							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 179	-0.5	-2.3	102 157	1.9	2.2
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 830	-6.2	6.5	94 303	-0.8	3.4
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 342	4.8	2.5	63 946	2.7	1.2
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	269	-2.9	1.5	15 369	2.0	9.5
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 212	1.0	1.5	103 433	1.3	3.3
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 871	-0.3	2.2	94 425	0.3	2.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 323	1.3	5.4	63 814	1.0	3.0
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	269	-2.2	-5.2	14 939	-1.1	4.3

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6203.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6403.0, 6408.0, 8501.0, 8635.0, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9301.0, 9303.0.

Figures in the above table are either preliminary, final, or revisions to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: p — preliminary data.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

